

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant: Douglas Wright

Filed: Herewith

Docket No.: W203.101.102

Continuation Application of:

Serial No.: 10/138,459

Filing Date: May 3, 2002

Title: SELF-TIMERED DEVICE FOR ACTIVATING A CAMERA SHUTTER RELEASE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and add claims 15-32.

1. – 14.(Cancelled).

15.(New) A timer mechanism for activating a shutter release button of a camera, the mechanism comprising:

a bottom assembly including:

a bottom housing,

an inner hub extending axially within the bottom housing, the inner hub forming a central passage;

a top assembly including:

a top housing,

a drive member extending axially within the top housing and aligned with the inner hub;

a rod disposed within the central passage of the inner hub; and

a spiral spring mechanically coupled to the drive member;

wherein upon final assembly, the top housing is rotatable relative to the bottom housing to store energy in the spiral spring, the mechanism being configured to transfer the energy to the drive member such that the drive member forces the rod downwardly through the central passage for depressing a camera shutter release button during the downward movement.

16.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, wherein the top assembly further includes a retention device extending axially between the top housing and the bottom housing, the retention device mechanically coupled to the drive member.

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17.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 16, wherein a portion of the retention device is a post.

18.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 17, wherein the post is radially offset from a central axis of the top assembly.

19.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, wherein a portion of the spiral spring is disposed in a location radially offset from a central axis of the bottom assembly.

20.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, wherein the rod defines a top end and a bottom end, the top end extending to the top housing, the bottom end adapted to selectively depress a camera shutter release button.

21.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a coupling material provided at the bottom assembly for selectively securing the timer mechanism to a camera.

22.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, further comprising a thread extending from opposite sides of the bottom assembly for selectively securing the timer mechanism to a camera.

23.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, wherein the timer mechanism is configured to linearly move the rod during a shutter activation operation.

24.(New) The timer mechanism of claim 15, wherein the spiral spring defines a central spiral spring axis, the central spiral spring axis being parallel to an axis of the rod.

25.(New) A timer mechanism for activating a shutter release button of the camera, the timer mechanism comprising:

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a housing including a top assembly secured to a bottom assembly, at least the bottom assembly defining a central passage;

a rod slidably maintained within the central passage, the rod defining a top end and a bottom end, the bottom end adapted to depress shutter release button of the camera; and

a spiral spring mechanically coupled to a drive member of the top assembly;

wherein winding of the spring stores energy, and selective release of the energy to the drive member causes a downward movement of the rod; and

further wherein the rod is arranged to move axially such that the bottom end is extended from the housing for depressing a shutter release button of a camera.

26.(New) A method of activating a shutter release button of a camera, the method comprising:

providing a timer mechanism including a top assembly secured to a bottom assembly, a rod slidably maintained within a central passage of the bottom assembly, and a spiral spring mechanically coupled with the top assembly;

connecting the timer mechanism to a camera such that a bottom end of the rod is over the shutter release button;

rotating the top assembly relative to the bottom assembly such that energy is stored in the spiral spring;

allowing the energy stored in the spiral spring to act upon a drive member of the top assembly such that the drive member causes the rod to move; and

forcing the rod downwardly as the spiral spring acts upon the drive member;

wherein the downward movement of the rod continues until the bottom end depresses the shutter release button.

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27.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein rotating the top assembly relative to the bottom assembly includes rotating a top housing of the top assembly relative to a bottom housing of the bottom assembly.

28.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein rotating the top assembly relative to the bottom assembly includes transferring energy to a retention device extending between a top housing of the top assembly and a bottom housing of the bottom assembly.

29.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein allowing the energy stored in the spiral spring to act upon a drive member of the top assembly includes transferring the energy stored in the spiral spring through a retention device extending into a top housing of the top assembly.

30.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein allowing the energy stored in the spiral spring to act upon a drive member includes moving the drive member.

31.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein allowing the energy stored in the spiral spring to act upon a drive member includes inducing a relative motion between an inner hub extending axially upwardly from the bottom assembly and the drive member.

32.(New) The method of claim 26, wherein allowing the energy stored in the spiral spring to act upon a drive member includes inducing a relative motion between the bottom assembly and the drive member.